

# Publishing your Engaged Scholarship

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Engagement Conference  
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# A little about me

- I am a Buckeye! ☺
- 1996 – present. Faculty member in Biological & Agricultural Engineering, LSU
- Started doing engagement in 1998
  - How I got my start in publishing engaged scholarship
- 2010-2018: Faculty member and CCELL Director
- 2018 – present. Editor, Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship





# Overview

- Definition of engaged scholarship
  - Approaches
- Thinking about engaged scholarship and publication
  - Reflection questions
  - Products of engaged scholarship
  - Strategies: general and specific
- Q&A on engaged scholarship
- Wrap-up: best practices and conclusion
- Your questions are welcomed throughout!

# Definition

*Engaged scholarship* – the collaborative generation, refinement, conservation, and exchange of mutually beneficial and societally relevant knowledge that is communicated to and validated by peers in academe and the community. (Academy of Community Engaged Scholars)



# Approaches to Engaged Scholarship

- Planned from the start of the project
- Hey, I've been doing this awesome work and I'd like to share it!
- It is possible to be successful whether you plan in advance or “back into it” later, though the former approach is easier than the latter.
  - I have “backed into” it a lot. ☺

# Thinking about engaged scholarship

- Reflection questions
  - What are you most passionate about in your engagement work?
  - What is the burning question you must answer or wonderful story that has to be shared?
  - What opportunities for scholarship does your work provide?
  - What strategies might enhance your chances for success? (conferences, serving as a reviewer, etc.)



# Thinking about engaged scholarship: Products of engaged scholarship

There are many products of scholarship!

- From Nancy Franz
  - Academic products
  - Community products
  - Applied products
- This framework helps capture the myriad of creative work produced through community-university partnerships.

# Academic Products

- Abstracts
- Books and Monographs
- Chapters
- Journal articles
- Proceedings
- Posters
- Presentations
- Grants and Competitive Contracts





# Community Products

- Grants
- Designs
- Displays/brochures
- Forums
- Newsletters
- Presentations
- Reports/policy briefs
- Seminars
- Websites



# Applied Products (both)

- Apps
- Curricula
- Educational materials
- Guides
- Handbooks
- Policies
- Research briefs
- Social marketing
- Training and technical assistance tools





# Thinking about engaged scholarship: general strategies

- Talk to people
  - Contact your colleagues and university engagement office
    - Ask about their scholarship strategies
  - Work with your community partner
    - Plan research together
    - Remember all the products of scholarship!
  - Contact potential journals/publishers/potential funders as you shape your ideas
    - <https://engagementscholarship.org/publications/journals>
- Engage in professional development

# Engaged Scholarship Resources for Professional Development

- Campus Compact
- Community Campus Partnerships for Health
- Emerging Engagement Scholars Program
- Engagement Academy for University Leaders
- Engagement Scholarship Consortium
- HENCE (Higher Ed Network for Community Engagement)
- IARSLCE (International association for research on service learning and community engagement)
- Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Through Higher Education



# Thinking about engaged scholarship: general strategies

- **Do some research**
  - Become familiar with the engagement literature in your discipline (and in general)
  - Find gaps in the literature that correspond to the type of work you want to do
- **Plan your project with publication in mind**  
(goals, measurable objectives, assessment, evaluation, IRB)
  - Franz: ID all products of research at the outset of the project
    - Point person for each product

# Thinking about engaged scholarship: specific strategies

- Don't be a perfectionist!!!!
  - The academic career ladder is strewn with the wrecked careers of perfectionists!!!
- Live by the 80/20 rule: you get 80% of a project finished in 20% of the total time it takes to complete that project, but the last 20% of the project takes 80% of the time.



# Thinking about engaged scholarship: specific strategies

- It's all about writing
  - “Resolve to write one lousy page a day.”
  - Get it down now and worry about fine tuning it later
  - It's okay to start in the middle!
  - Your first draft will suck, and that's OK!
  - Figure out your best time/way to write, block out that time, and treat it with as much reverence as you could a meeting with the chancellor!
- Other strategies
  - Writing groups
  - Build coalitions (big funding = coalitions)

# A must read!

- How to derive joy from something that causes much stress and discontent
- BASE model
  - Behavioral
    - Discipline and persistence
  - Artisanal
    - Craftsmanship and care
  - Social
    - Collegiality and collaboration
  - Emotional
    - Positivity and pleasure





What do journals want and not want right now?



# Reflections from the editor's chair

- Most common reason for rejection
  - Lack of fit
  - Nothing new or novel
- Suggestions
  - Read some of the articles in the journal you wish to submit to
  - Think about your publication as a GIFT that you wish to share with readers
  - Use narrative and story-telling in your manuscript!



# Reflections from the editor's chair

- Editors are your friends (it's okay to contact us!)
  - We WANT your work!
  - If we are behind on your review, contact us (respectfully). ☺
- A revise and resubmit is NOT a bad outcome!
- If you re-submit an article, make it easy for the editorial staff to follow how you addressed reviewer comments
  - Letter to editor in which you detail your changes, point by point
- It is okay to disagree with reviewer comments
  - Provide justification
  - Don't make it personal!
    - Remember the difference between a critical review and a bad review

# A little about JCES

- <http://jces.ua.edu/>
- Example of case study situated in broader context
  - <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?cc=mjcsloa;c=mjcsl;c=mjcsloa;idno=3239521.0024.110;view=text;rgn=main;xc=1;g=mjcslg>



# What about rejection?

- If you can, try to make friends with rejection!
  - I have been rejected a lot! 😊
- "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." Martin Luther King, Jr.



# Questions (and let's get to work!)

- What questions do you have?
- What would you like to do next?



# Engaged Scholarship Best Practices (Franz)

- Context is everything
- Start early – effective engagement takes time
- Document as you go-process, learning, impact, significance
- Write for a variety of audiences
- Clearly articulate the intellectual/research question or working hypothesis behind the work
- Engage community partners in engaged scholarship product production
- Align engaged scholarship with your discipline, department, campus, and national priorities
- Select, use, and thank mentors on your journey

# Conclusion

- Engagement scholarship is a journey
  - Use resources, strategies, and best practices
  - Work together!
  - Publish it!
  - Along the way
    - Build and sustain coalitions
    - Success may not happen overnight
    - Make friends with rejection ☺
      - Think process, not outcome



# References

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# Additional information

- During discussion, some questions were asked about publishing your engaged scholarship with respect to promotion and tenure.
- I answered these questions but also said that I'd add a few slides to the back of my slide set when submitted for the conference proceedings for people interested in promotion and tenure issues with respect to engaged scholarship. These slides follow this one.



# The question

- How do you make engaged scholarship count (through promotion and tenure)?

# The enigma of P&T

- There are three rules for getting tenure. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.
- Not everything can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.



# General tips for making it count

- **Start your P&T documentation now (use the document at your university)**
  - Use given headings and fill in your activities as you go along
  - Don't "double count" the same material with service-learning/civic engagement, but showcase the different "pieces" of your work in the separate sections on research, teaching, and service
  - Use the guidelines for service-learning/civic engagement documentation set forth by your university (or by national criteria, see following slides)
  - It should be okay to add extra sections to your P&T document as long as you stay within documentation guidelines

# General tips for making it count

- Find out the “rules of thumb” regarding what you need for tenure at your institution
  - LSU COA: 10 refereed journal articles
  - LSU COEng: 10-15 (pertaining to work at LSU) refereed journal articles, \$100,000 funding/yr, federal funding a must
    - The least publishable unit!
  - Liberal Arts: a single-authored scholarly book
- Make a plan (road map) specifying your professional goals (including a timeline) to meet/exceed these “rules of thumb”



# Reflection question

- What items are currently on your road map?

# General tips for making it count

- Get annual feedback on the plan from your chair, your mentors, and your promotion and tenure committee
- Remember: you will receive conflicting advice and will NOT please everyone
  - Do the things you're passionate about!
  - Also do the things you're supposed to do
  - CYA: your activities **MUST** be scholarly (make them **count**) and you must build cogent documentation to prove it



# Guidelines for documenting professional service/outreach

- Focus on documenting your individual contribution, in addition to your overall project(s) impacts
  - This approach is counterintuitive to engaged scholarship, but (imho) is necessary because your P&T case is almost exclusively based on your work as an individual scholar.
- Be selective about what information to include; does the information help make the case for scholarship?
- Show your professional service/outreach activities as a platform for future work
- Connect the dots: make the case for being a Renaissance scholar (reflective practitioner)

# Measures of Quality (Lynton)

- Depth of experience and preparation
- Appropriateness of chosen goals and methods
- Effectiveness of communication
- Quality of reflection
- Impact
- Originality and innovation



# The national review board for the scholarship of engagement

- [http://schoe.coe.uga.edu/evaluation/evaluation\\_criteria.html](http://schoe.coe.uga.edu/evaluation/evaluation_criteria.html)
  - Evaluation criteria
  - FAQs
  - Resources
  - Request assistance